

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A steering column assembly comprising:
a compression bracket for attachment to a vehicle body;
an adjustable steering column assembly movably supported by said compression bracket for longitudinal adjustment along a longitudinal axis between adjusted positions;
a pair of locking elements operably connected to said compression bracket and movable between a locked position for preventing longitudinal movement of said adjustable steering column relative to said compression bracket and a release position for allowing longitudinal movement of said adjustable steering column assembly along said axis; and
said first element presenting a detent recess and said second element being movable between said locked position in engagement with said detent recess and said release position out of engagement with said detent recess.
2. A steering column assembly as set forth in claim 1 wherein said first locking element includes an inclined ramp extending from said detent recess to facilitate movement of said second locking element into said detent recess.
3. A steering column assembly as set forth in claim 2 wherein said compression bracket includes bracket sections disposed on opposite sides of said

column assembly and said first and second locking elements interconnect said bracket sections for moving said bracket sections into clamping engagement with said adjustable steering column assembly for preventing relative longitudinal movement therebetween.

4. A steering column assembly as set forth in claim 3 including a shaft extending through said bracket sections of said compression bracket.

5. A steering column assembly as set forth in claim 4 wherein said second locking element includes a bracket device and a roller rotateably connected to said bracket device for rolling over said inclined ramp into and out of said detent recess.

6. A steering column assembly as set forth in claim 5 wherein said bracket device is pivotably connected to said shaft for moving said roller in an arcuate path.

7. A steering column assembly as set forth in claim 6 including a pin extending through said bracket device and said shaft for pivotally connecting said bracket device to said shaft.

8. A steering column assembly as set forth in claim 7 wherein said bracket device includes sides interconnected by a top wall.

9. A steering column assembly as set forth in claim 8 wherein each side includes one of said rollers rotatably connected thereto for rolling over said inclined ramp into and out of said detent recess.
10. A steering column assembly as set forth in claim 9 comprising:
- said compression bracket including top wall interconnecting said bracket sections extending parallel one the other, and first and second ends;
 - said bracket sections including a bottom lip integral with and extending from said bracket sections parallel to said top wall;
 - a flange integral with and extending outwardly from each of said bracket sections in a cantilevered fashion;
 - said first locking element defined by a wedge having front and rear ends and first and second side surfaces, said wedge being connected to said bracket section of said compression bracket;
 - said ramp of said wedge sloping from said rear end and further extending downwardly and then upwardly to define said detent recess and then extending to said front end to define a wall extending in parallel relationship with respect to said longitudinal axis;
 - said bracket device including a roller pin extending through each roller and said sides to facilitate the rotational movement of said rollers about said roller pins;
 - said adjustable steering column assembly including a support bracket having first and second ends, top wall and side walls parallel one the other and

extending from said top wall;

said side walls of said support bracket including an elongated slot extending longitudinally of said first end and said second end of the support bracket ;

an outer tubular member of said adjustable steering column assembly disposed within and connected to said support bracket;

an inner tubular member of said adjustable steering column assembly disposed within and connected to said outer tubular member;

said shaft having terminal ends and extending along an axis transversely with respect to said longitudinal axis and through said hole of said compression bracket and said elongated slot of said support bracket and through said wedge connected to said bracket section of said compression bracket,

said terminal end of said shaft being securably connected with said side wall of said compression bracket and the other terminal end extending beyond the bracket section;

a bushing disposed about said shaft and between said side walls of said support bracket for preventing movement of said side walls with respect to said longitudinal axis; and

a lever attached to and extending from said top wall of said bracket device for rotating said bracket device about a detent axis for detently sliding said rollers on said inclined ramp and locking said rollers within said detent recess.